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WARD, EDWARD J. *The Social Center*. Pp. x, 359. Price, $1.50. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1913.

In this volume Edward J. Ward, the enthusiastic apostle of democracy, sets forth in an interesting way his own experience in the recent movement for the community use of the public schools in Rochester and in Wisconsin. The political significance of these efforts to develop an enlightened public opinion by making each neighborhood schoolhouse the meeting place of a self-organized, non-partisan, deliberative body, is first discussed at length. The recreational and educational activities of the magnified school are then taken up. Successive chapters deal with the school as Festival, Art, Music, and Recreation Center; as Public Lecture, Branch Library and Employment Center; and as Public Health Office. One illuminating chapter treats the Social Center in Rural Communities. The author makes copious quotations from writers on each subject; the final chapters consider the reaction of the newer uses of the school upon our educational system—both university and public school.

But the various new uses of the school for which such extravagant claims are made—in the attempt to show the school, in theory, at least, the all-comprehensive social institution—must prove their value experimentally before being accepted; enlargement of function will certainly come gradually, and only where other organizations have not been developed to fill recognized social needs.

The innovation of the use of the schoolhouse as public forum, however, seems already to have received the approval of our political leaders who have the social welfare at heart. Justice Hughes said at a Rochester civic meeting: "I am more interested in what you are doing and what it stands for than anything else in the world; you are buttressing the foundations of democracy. And President Wilson, at the first national social center conference at Madison declared: "What I see in this movement is a recovery of the constructive and creative genius of the American people."

F. D. TYSON.

New York School of Philanthropy.

WILCOX, DELOS F. *Government by All the People*. Pp. xi, 324. Price $1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

The author has not attempted to discuss the specific forms of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall that have been adopted in various states and cities, or to cite in support of the argument for them the experience of these states and cities.

The work is divided into four parts: Part I, the introduction, discusses the conditions that led to the current revival in democracy. Part II explains the Initiative, and discusses the objections to it,—namely that it would destroy constitutional stability; would foster the tyranny of the majority; would tend to the subversion of judicial authority; would result in unscientific legislation and would lead to radical legislation, and that it would be used by special